

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended paragraphs [0008], [0011], and [0012] to correct minor typographical errors. These amendments bring the specification into conformance with Fig. 1A. No new matter has been introduced by such amendments. Applicants therefore respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form.

Applicants request the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art of Figs. 1A and 1B. With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner stated:

Figs. 1A & 1B teaches all claimed features, a transmitter circuit (145) for transmitting a test signal (HVIN) from a programmable input/output pin (115) of a programmable logic device, the transmitter circuit comprising an amplifier (150) having an amplifier control terminal (CTRL), a first supply terminal (VFY) connected to the input/output pin, and a first amplifier output terminal (VFY_S).

Office Action at page 2, ¶2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Fig. 1A. In particular, Applicants submit that Claim 1 recites a single programmable input/output pin. That is, the programmable input/output pin that provides the

test signal is also connected to the first supply terminal, as recited in Claim 1. This is clear since in the original claim language, the first reference to the element states: "a programmable input/output pin" and the second reference states: "the input/output pin." Therefore, in Claim 1, these references refer to the same element. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite "the programmable input/output pin" at the second reference. This amendment merely clarifies the language of Claim 1 to remove any possible confusion that both references are to the same element, and this amendment does not relate to the prior art and does not relate to patentability. Applicants have similarly amended Claim 4.

In contrast, the Examiner cites element 115 of Fig. 1A as the programmable input/output pin that provides the test signal HVIN, and cites VFY as the first supply terminal connected to the input/output pin. Fig. 1A, however, clearly shows that HVIN and VFY are provided on two separate pins. In fact, as set forth in the specification, this is one of the problems the present invention addresses. The specification states: "Due to the pad-limited nature of modern devices, device pins are at a premium. It is therefore undesirable to provide a dedicated pin 121 for the purposes of test at the expense of a general purpose I/O circuit 105." (Specification at [0012].) In other words, one advantage of the present invention is that a separate dedicated pin is no longer necessary. Fig. 1A shows two separate pins to receive the VFY and HVIN signals, respectively, whereas the present invention recites only one input/output pin. Therefore, since Fig. 1A does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants believe Claim 1 is allowable and respectfully request allowance of Claim 1.

Claim 4 depends from Claim 1, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants believe Claim 4 is also allowable, and respectfully request allowance of Claim 4.

Objections

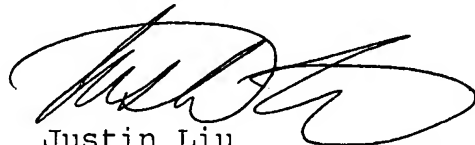
Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement of allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended Claim 2 to recite all limitations of its base claim. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 2 is now in form for allowance. Claim 3 depends from Claim 2, and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 2. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 3 is also in form for allowance. Allowance of Claims 2 and 3 is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believes that Claims 1-4 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.

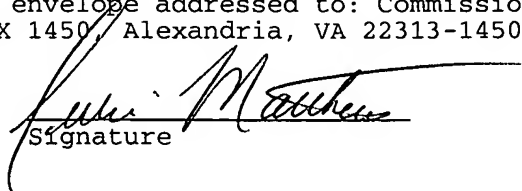
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 18, 2004.

Julie Matthews
Name



Signature